

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00230 181219Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/086 W

----- 083712

P R 181144Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9775

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS": PFOR, ECIN, XY, NG

SUMMARY: RECALL OF MALI DELEGATION FROM CEAO CONFERENCE
OF EXPERTS BREAKS UP SESSION AND FORCES INDEFINITE
POSTPONEMENT OF MEETINGS OF MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF
STATE.

1. MALI DELEGATION OF WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
(CEAO) MEETING IN NIAMEY OF FINANCIAL AND CUSTOMS EXPERTS
WAS RECALLED EVENING JAN 16. SINCE CONFERENCE RULES
REQUIRE UNANIMITY IN ALL DECISIONS, SESSIONS SCHEDULED
FOR FOLLOWING DAY SUSPENDED WHILE AWAITING RESULTS
LAST MINUTE APPEALS BY NIGER GOVERNMENT PERSUADE MALIANS
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RETURN. WHEN EFFORTS PROVED FRUITLESS, CEAO

SECRETARY GENERAL CHEIKH IBRAHIMA FALL ANONOUNCED
LATE JAN 17 TERMINATION OF CONFERENCE OF EXPERTS AND INDEFINITE
POSTPONEMENT OF SUBSEQUENTLY PLANNED MEETINGS OF
MINISTERS AND HEADS OF STATE. ALTHOUGH MALIANS
DID NOT ISSUE FORMAL STATEMENT IN NIAMEY GIVING
REASONS FOR RECALL, IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT
ABRUPT DEPARTURE WAS TIED TO CURRENT TERRITORIAL DISPUTE
WITH UPPER VOLTA.

2. NIGER GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN LOOKING FORWARD FOR SOME TIME TO
HOSTING CONFERENCE (AFTER IT HAD BEEN EARLIER POSTPONED AS A
RESULT OF APRIL COUP D'ETAT) AND PARTICULARLY TO
WELCOMING CHIEFS OF STATE FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES CEAO
FOR TWO-DAY SUMMIT. MALIAN ACTION HAS THUS DEPLY
EMBARRASSED AND IRRITATED NIGERIENS. WHAT MADE MALI
WALKOUT EVEN MORE DISCONCERTING WAS PRESENCE IN

NIAMEY OF OBSERVERS FROM NIGERIA, TOGO AND DAHOMEY,
MEMBERS OF A REIVAL WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC GROUPING.
SINCE COL KOUNTCHE HOWEVER CURRENTLY PRESIDING
AS PRESIDENT OF CEAO AND SERVING AS MEMBER OF MEDIATION
COMMISSION ON MALI-UPPER VOLTA DISPUTE, GON HAS REFRAINED
FROM ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM OF MALIAN ACTION AND IS
ATTEMPTING TO PLAY DOWN INCIDENT AS A QUOTE MOMENTARY
MISUNDERSTANDING UNQUOTE.BUCHE

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